

9 *we claims*  
~~Patent Claims~~

1. A method for operating a switching system for data packets having inputs and outputs, with temporary storage, of the data packets, at the input, characterized in that, when each data packet arrives, a message is merely sent to the output and is placed into the queue there.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the message contains a reference, information about the priority for correct marshaling of the data packet and information about the length of the packet.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the message is transmitted via the same physical transmission path, but via a separate logical channel, as the data packets.

4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that a further message is returned to the input memory from the appropriate output as soon as the data packet can be dispatched via the output, and only then is the data packet transmitted to the appropriate destination.

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5. The method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the further message contains information about the destination of the data packet.

6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the messages are combined into message packets which are transmitted together via the switching system.

7. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that a data flow controller is used to handle transmission of the messages.

8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that, if a data packet is transmitted to a plurality of destinations, a plurality of messages are merely produced and placed into the respective queue.

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Added

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